

August 16, 2024

The Town has received multiple comments raising questions about the Discharge of Firearms provision within the draft Code of Ordinances. We would like to provide an update on that issue prior to our next Town Board meeting on September 9, 2024. We fully understand and appreciate that Oconto County is a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County. There is no intention to ban the use of firearms in the Town.

We appreciate the feedback that we have received, and it has helped bring light to a drafting issue with that provision. The Town's intent is to not regulate the discharge of firearms beyond the state laws already in existence. We realize that the previous draft ordinance did not exactly say that. Our intent was that in addition to the "allowable" uses of firearms listed in the ordinance, other types of use not prohibited by state law (e.g., sport shooting, sighting in rifles, etc.) would be allowed as well. However, the ordinance did not read that way.

We will be evaluating and presenting two (2) alternative corrections to this ordinance. The **first** option is to modify the ordinance to explicitly state that all discharges of firearms that do not violate state law are allowed. Doing this would mean that residents can discharge firearms to the maximum extent permitted by state law. By having this in a Town ordinance, the Town would have the authority to address any violations of state requirements.

The **second** option is to eliminate the Discharge of Firearms provision completely. Doing this would mean that the state laws still apply, but without an ordinance in place, the Town would not have any authority to address violations. That would be the exclusive responsibility of the Sheriff's Department.

We will be discussing this matter further at the September 9, 2024 meeting. In the meantime, we wanted to clarify our intent in light of the feedback we have received.

Thank you

Respectfully,

The Little Suamico Town Board